(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the quantity of export can be increased by expediting research and testing work in this industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details of the action plan therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, at present India's share of processed food export in the world is only 1.5%. The Government has accorded it a high priority area, with a number of fiscal incentives to encourage and boost up the commercialization and value addition to the agricultural produce. The Ministry is assisting food processing units to improve their quality standards so that they can compete better in the international markets and exports increased. Ministry of Food Processing Indusries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Intergrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates i.e. @ 50% upto Rs.4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for Upgradation/ modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticulture produce. This effort towards modernization would further improve their cost competitiveness and quality levels in the world markets and result in growth of exports. Government has also provided several excise/customs duty reduction and income tax exemption so as to increase cost competitiveness of food processing units. Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries on its own.

(c) and (d) Yes, the quantity of export can be increased by expediting research and testing work in this industry. In this regard this Ministry has been providing financial assistance to institutions for research and development work and also for setting up food testing laboratories. Ministry has provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 16.01 crores till Dec. 2006 for 41 R&D projects. Minisry has also provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 52.83 crores to 36 food testing laboratories so far.

Fees of private schools

632. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring a law to administer all the primary and middle level private schools mushrooming in the country, offering education to children with inflated fees, but without basic infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALI ASHRAF FATMI):(a)No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Education being in the Concurrent List, the matter regarding estblishment, recognition and regulation of private schools comes under the jurisdiction of respective States/UTs.